

Message Text

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E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OREP (CODEL DERWINSKI, EDWARD)

SUBJECT: CODEL DERWINSKI VISIT TO CYPRUS

1. CONGRESSMAN DERWINSKI OF HOUSE INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE DEPARTED CYPRUS JANUARY 12 FOLLOWING WHAT HE TERMED A USEFUL AND INFORMATIVE VISIT. DERWINSKI ARRIVED JANUARY 10; VISITED REFUGEE CAMP; HAD CONTACTS WITH GREEK CYPRIOT NEGOTIATOR CLERIDES, FONMIN CHRISTOPHIDES, UN SYG SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE DE CUELLAR, AND TURK CYPRIOT LEADER DENKTASH; AND WAS BRIEFED BY VARIOUS EMBASSY AND UN OFFICERS.

2. DERWINSKI GAVE GREEK CYPRIOT LEADERS FRIENDLY, FRANK, AND SOBER APPRAISAL OF THE LIMITS OF CONGRESS' WILL AND ABILITY TO INFLUENCE COURSE OF EVENTS ON CYPRUS. CONGRESS, HE SAID, ATTACHED VITAL IMPORTANCE TO NATO AND VIEWED CYPRUS PRIMARILY FROM THIS STANDPOINT. ONE SHOULD THEREFORE NOT COUNT ON CONGRESS' REIMPOSING TOTAL ARMS EMBARGO ON TURKEY. DERWINSKI LISTENED CAREFULLY BUT NON-COMMITTALLY, TO AFTERNOON-LONG EXPOSITION BY DENKTASH, CRITICIZED CONGRESSIONAL COLLEAGUES WHO FAILED TO HEAR OUT BOTH SIDES' ARGUMENTS,

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AND AT DENKTASH'S INVITATION ACCOMPANIED HIM ON

ELECTIONEERING VISIT TO TWO VILLAGES WHICH HAD BEEN ABANDONED BY TURKS FOLLOWING 1963 TROUBLES. WHILE AT UN BRIEFINGS, DERWINSKI ASSURED RANKING UN OFFICERS THAT CONGRESS, DESPITE ITS DISSATISFACTION WITH UN, FULLY SUPPORTED UN PEACE-KEEPING EFFORTS AND WOULD CONTINUE TO PROVIDE FUNDS SO THE US COULD SHOULDER ITS SHARE OF UNFICYP'S FINANCIAL BURDEN.

3. DERWINSKI KEPT LOW PROFILE WHILE IN CYPRUS AND GREEK CYPRIOT PRESS SNIPPILY TOOK NOTE OF FACT THAT HE DEPARTED WITHOUT MAKING FAREWELL STATEMENT. PRESS ALSO REPORTED DERWINSKI INTERVIEW WITH ATHENS' ACROPOLIS IN WHICH HE REPORTEDLY SAID IT WAS IN TURKEY'S INTEREST TO SETTLE THE CYPRUS QUESTION; EXPRESSED HOPE THAT TURKEY WOULD MAKE THE RIGHT PRIORITIES; AND CAUTIONED THAT CONGRESS HAS TO WORK TO RESTORE NATO SOLIDARITY AND GOOD RELATIONS BETWEEN GREECE AND TURKEY WITHOUT ADOPTING AN ANTI-TURKISH ATTITUDE. COMMUNIST HARAVGHI CRITICIZED DERWINSKI FOR HIS ALLEGEDLY CLOSE RELATIONS WITH GREEK JUNTA, FAILING TO SUPPORT IMPLEMENTATION OF UN RESOLUTIONS, AND TRYING TO MISWEAD THE CYPRUS GOVERNMENT. RIGHT-WING ELEFTHEROS LAOS (JAN 13), INDIRECTLY CRITICIZING CONGRESSMAN'S STATEMENT ABOET NOT TAKING ANTI-TURKISH ATTITUDE, SAID TURKISH INTRANSIGENCE IS STRENGTHENED BY TOLERANCE BEING SHOWN BY U.S. "IF THE U.S. HAD WANTED, TURKEY WOULD HAVE LONG (AGO) BEEN FORCED TO A JUST AND REASONABLE COMPROMISE."

4. COMMENT: DERWINSKI CONDUCTED HIMSELF ADRIOTLY. HE WAS PARTICULARLY EFFECTIVE IN CAUTIONING SENIOR GOC OFFICIALS AGAINST UNDUE HOPES OF WHAT CONGRESS COULD OR WOULD DO FOR CYPRUS, AND DEPARTED WITH FIRST HAND APPRECIATION OF COMPLEXITIES OF CYPRUS PROBLEM AND PERSONALITIES INVOLVED. END COMMENT.

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